

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/051,796	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Beverly M. Flanagan	3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment - filed 5/4/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,6-11,16-21,23 and 36-44.
3. The drawings filed on 16 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

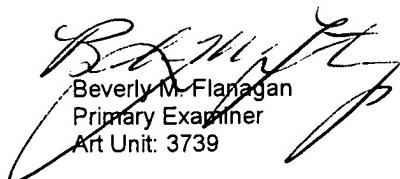
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date 5/4/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Beverly M. Flanagan
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit: 3739

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the invention as recited in claims 1, 6-11, 16-21, 23 and 36-44 of the instant invention including, *inter alia*, a medical robotic system including a first medical device, a first input device that can be moved a first input distance to move the first medical device, a second input device that can be moved a second input distance to move the first medical device where the second input distance is greater than the first input distance by an amount and a feedback device that provides a greater force feedback to the first input device than to the second input device, which indicates the amount of difference between the first and second input distances. The previously applied prior art, Tajima et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,855,553, lacks the feedback device as outlined in the instant invention. Tajima et al. do disclose a visual feedback 107 that is representative of an image of a diseased part (image signals 406 and 407 in Figure 5), but it does not indicate the difference between first and second input distances from a first and second input device. Furthermore, Tajima et al. are silent as to a feedback device that provides a greater force feedback to a first input device than to a second input device. As noted above, the feedback 107 of Tajima et al. only depict diseased parts and does not provide feedback of distances. Other prior art references cited by applicant (Salisbury, Jr., et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,522,906 and Moll et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,659,939) also lack first and second input devices and a feedback device that indicates the amount of difference between first and

second input distances. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-11, 16-21, 23 and 36-44 are allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beverly M. Flanagan whose telephone number is (703) 305-7202. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Beverly M. Flanagan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739
